# RCT WORLD NEWS

ALL NEW!
PSYCHIC PREDICTIONS
GOSSIP COLUMN
PHOTOS and more!!

April 2010

HAM RADIO'S MOST READ NEWSLETTER

## In this ginormous issue:

**Icom and Motorola team up and plan to buy 70% of the ARRL**

**South Hill FISTS member copies CW signals from W7BUN's dog, Galena**

**Wooden Key contest looser accosts contest judges.** Who dunit? See page 17

**Is it legal for hams to use Morse Code now?** Opions differ. What's yours?

**This Months Project: Measure the SWR of the ham you are talking with...** a simple kit you can build.

The Logger's Bark
RADIO CLUB of TACOMA

April 2010 Volume 6, Issue 4 Copyright RCT

# From The Editor...

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## GINORMUS Issue!?!

Well readers, it would appear that the April gremlins have gotten a hold of the "Barkie" Staff yet again and they've gone hog wild this month…

You have no idea how long it takes sometime to chase all those little guys out of the staff lunch room… Never mind the ladies staff room…

There is still a bit of confusion going on here at the Logger's Bark with the new staffing at the RCT. You may see some features come and go and it hopefully will settle down in the near future…

Unless we can't get those gremlins under control!

OK all you Old timers!

What is the name of the Warner Bro's short that this gremlin picture cam from?

All the answers are in the picture.

73 Gary

That's All Folks!!

# A JOT FROM JILL

**We have MARCHED right on into APRIL already! Where does time go? With daylight savings here, you can feel spring on its way. A few blustery days but overall our weather has been pretty nice.**

**I hope all of you had the opportunity to go down to the Mike and Key Flea Market and find something you didn't need. Maybe you found a few things you did need as well. For me, it's all about seeing people I haven't seen since last year and mingling with all the familiar ones I already know. I hope you got the chance to stop by the club booth upstairs and check it out. Thanks to all of you that were willing to sit at the booth and greet folks with a smile.**

**I've been amazed at the increase in attendance at our club meetings. It is always a full house and a lot of you have been sharing a show and tell item (thanks to Rich Patrick, KR7W for the great suggestion). Please keep coming and let Frank, AC7JY know if you have an idea for a program or you wish to do one yourself.**

**Thanks again for supporting me as your president. I hope you take some time to check into one of our nets, come to a meeting, stop by the clubhouse on a Saturday or participate in the many fun activities that we offer. Without you we are not a club. Please don't hesitate to send me an email if you have a question or call me if you have a concern.**

**73,**
**Jill, K7Jil**
**Radio Club of Tacoma President**

**BOARD MEETING**
**MARCH 3RD 2010**

Call to Order 7:02 PM
Roll Call:
President: Jill Palmer,
Board: Frank Palmer, Harry Adams, Si Nelson, Rick Rose, Joe Lester, Ken Gibson Alan Lentz.

**Approval of the Minutes:**
Harry Adams motioned to approve the minutes. Si Nelson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Health and Welfare:** Larry Watson reported on a new member who has been diagnosed with cancer.

**Correspondence:** Banks statements & usual bills were in the mail.

**Treasurer's report**: See attached Treasurer's report. The Treasurer reported the current checking account balance of $7,630.98.

**Committee Reports:**
**Membership** - membership, if everyone renews will be 350. Renewal packets will be stuffed and distributed Friday. Stuffing will occur at the clubhouse.

**Repeater** – Nick Winter K7MO reported on 147.280 repeater move. Committee discovered that lighting in the classroom was miss-wired. They fixed it. IRLP is connected and issues fixed. Murphy repeater update. Not on emergency power, company out of business. In process replacing with Master II base station. Looking for Master II voting receivers to be used for on the air control. Repeater room not to be used for storage.

**VE – No report.**

**Field Day –** Nick Winter appointed as Field Day Chair**.** Nick Winter, Bob Purdom, and Don Hatlestad are co-co-co chairs of the Field Day event. Nick would like to change the scope of field day away from points, and a build new operators by encouraging new people to participate. Nick discussed the ARRL Rookie Contest & getting new people involved.

**Hamfest** – Rick Rose reported on RCT Hamfest flyer has been produced, but can't get copied any time soon because of bad part on copy machine.
**Bark—** Joe Lester motioned to approve up to $240 for Bark printing costs as needed. Ken Gibson 2nded the motion. Discussion Frank Palmer asked how all the other things would be handled. Joe reported that occasional expenses are covered generally in the budget. The motion passed unanimously.

**Puyallup Fair**- Steve Morton will be Puyallup Fair event Chairman. Steve will be working with Pat, WT7N to get up to speed.

**Emergency Operations** – informal discussions with Steve McKeen W7QLO and Pat Kearn, K7IBC. Jill Palmer appointed Ken Gibson, N7ELF, Steve McKeen, W7QLO, and Pat Kearn K7IBC.

**Ad Hoc** -Amending the Bylaws – Rodney -Rick Rose reported that three meetings have occurred and work is progressing.

Auditing 2009 Treasury - Bob Purdom – Still need to meet.

**Unfinished Business:**
We have a motion that has been postponed from Feb mtg. The motion is:
Harry, W7HSA made a motion that Steve Morton be approved as Education Coordinator and two other members. Alan Lentz seconded. Discussion and call for a vote. Suggested by Jill Palmer that it be voted down so we can start over.

Harry Adams withdrew the motion without objection. The motion is withdrawn.

**New Business**
Jill Palmer appointed Steve Morton as the Education Coordinator. The Projected Education plan is once per month training, technician class prior to the VE session each month. Class is done by Sunday night. Proposing to set up an Extra class in late April/Early May & invite other members to assist with training. Class is guided by instructors, but more cohort learning will take place. July/August will be a General class. As an ARRL club, RCT will use ARRL training materials.

**Property Management plan** - Frank Palmer, Ad Hoc Special Committee Chairman reported that the group met twice and worked via email. Purpose was to establish a draft proposal to bring to the March Board meeting to vote on the procedures. Asked the Board to consider voting to approve the procedures. Frank Palmer motioned to accept the Radio Club of Tacoma Property Management Policy and Procedures proposal 1 March 2010. Joe Lester Seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Jill Palmer Appointed Frank Palmer as committee Chair, and the following on the committee. K7MXE, WE7P Bruce Hanson, Larry KD4VOM, Gary WG7X, Jack K7DBU, KR7W, Rich Patrick and Harry W7HSA.

**Picnic Budget** – Larry Watson – Larry reported on a car pass fee of $3 per person and $1/ person for people with disabilities. There is also a $15 withdrawal fee. Possibly looking at Steilacoom Park as an opportunity. Larry has been directed to reserve Spanaway park shelter.

**Salmon run money ideas** by Frank Palmer (projector and garage lean-to or container)
Joe Lester is proposing that the Board consider a discussion at the next meeting for the purpose of considering repealing the standing rules. Notice that he intends to bring it up at the next meeting.

**Other**: Jill discussed the Mike and Key Hamfest decor – St. Patrick's Day theme.

Good of the order

Adjourn Meeting -

# RCT TUBE SALE
## NOW ACCEPTING SEALED BIDS

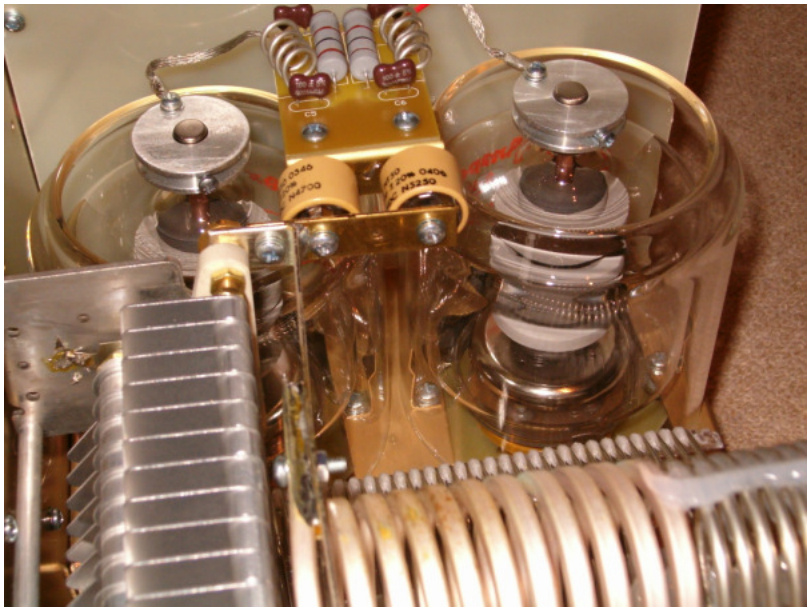
Here is the list of what is for sale. Short of counting every single tube there are 3000, give or take a few. There has been some added which are not on the list. They are packed in several moving boxes, some loose and some in boxes.

The procedure to bid is Write down your bid (lowball offers will be not be considered) and seal it in an envelope marked "TUBES".

Send it to: Radio Club of Tacoma
PO Box 11188
Tacoma, WA 98411

You may also hand carry it to the RCT Secretary N7ELF or the RCT Property Manager AC7JY.

The highest bidder will be revealed at the RCT clubhouse on May 8th 2010.



**Dateline: April 2010**

## *Sparky's* "BARK FODDER"

### This and that *Beyond* the club, and more…

***Sparky's*** *Decided to take a shot at bringing into the BARK selected amateur radio articles and stories from other sources. Some from the ARRL, and others from other sources which Sparky thinks might be of interest to the BARK reader.*

- ARRL Sidewalk Radio
- ARRL Rookie Roundup
- View from the Shack

## ARRL—Sidewalk Radio

***From the ARRL Contest Radio Newsletter 3 March 2010 by Ward Silver N0AX***

This is the time of year when at club meetings the president gravely scans the assembled throng and with dulcet tones delivers a hortatory call to rise as one in support of the annual Field Day adventures. A sough rustles across the membership as they rouse from their post-supper hebetude to contemplate the implications. A leader is chosen, sometimes in clever ambush, launching the annual roborant exertion of weaving March's gallimaufry into June's fructuous spectacle of wireless effulgence!

Ah, Field Day. Many an operator will remember a long-past Field Day as having provided the first of many radio enlightenments. Indeed, quite a few will have experienced that personal tipping point by which they are delivered to ham radio during those early summer imbroglios of comestibles, cables, connectors, conversation, and camaraderie. Field Day is a time when ham radio blooms, attracting the cognoscenti and curious alike.

In this sense of presentation to other, I suggest that we consider the location in which we plant our gardens. If yours is a group for whom a big score and competitive mastery is the goal, then perhaps that secret hilltop is the optimum spot. But for the rest, why not offer up ham radio to the beginners and passers-by? So much of our hobby-sport-service takes place out of view in basements, spare bedrooms, local EOCs, and club houses, access to which the public is rarely granted. We are invisible!

It is commonly agreed that ham radio has lost much of its place in the public conversation. We are too often seen as preservationists or oddballs tinkerering with obsolete technology. Services rendered by hams in time of need may be duly noted, but after the fact and still the public has little interaction with what it is we do. It seems to me that instead of hiding our activities, we should be performing them out in plain view where anyone can experience the ham radio of today.

Amateur astronomers, facing parallel concerns, have adopted what they call "Sidewalk Astronomy". Never mind that the local street corner does not have optimum "seeing". What's important is that passers-by, many of whom have never looked through a telescope, get an opportunity to effortlessly experience astronomy and talk with an enthusiastic stargazer. Never mind that 10th-magnitude stars are obscured by light pollution. Point the 'scope Moon-ward and let someone get their first glimpse of shadows cast by lunar mountains across crater floors!

> We need to practice "Sidewalk Radio" so that the public can have a similar encounter with ham radio "in the wild" and not as a curiosity. Field Day is a perfect opportunity to set up in a public area. For example, if you operate near the local baseball and soccer playfields, you will have a continuous stream of curious kids dragging the parents over to have a look! Where do people go on weekends?

How about shopping centers and malls?

I can hear the groaning now, "What a terrible location! It will be noisy! People will bother us!" Fiddlesticks! We can lock ourselves in the basement the other 51 weekends of the year - get out there and welcome the public. Don't set up a defensive perimeter -- arrange the tables and tents so that a "civilian" doesn't feel like an intruder. Have a greeter and tour guides to break down those social barriers! Be prepared to answer questions, have handouts and brochures available, and act like you're enjoying yourself! Sit up straight and brush your teeth! (Sorry, got carried away there...)

Seriously, put out signs that say "Amateur Radio Demonstration - Public Welcome!" Better yet, add a sign that says, "Free Coffee and Cookies!" Don't expect people to know what "Field Day" is - you need to get them to come over so that you can tell them! And when they ask about local radio clubs or other events (like a flea market) be prepared with a custom handout that shows all of the local radio club Web sites and meeting information.

Once you start Sidewalk Radio, you might enjoy it enough to ask yourself, "Why not some time other than Field Day?" Exactly! It's easy to get out there and put up a no-ground vertical and work a little HF - it doesn't have to be worldwide DX with a big beam. Figure out how to use your handheld radio and a VHF/UHF "Cheap Yagi" to work a ham radio satellite from the parking lot of the local big-box store. Show off meteor scatter on 6 meters with WSJT. Once you get started, the ideas will flow and you'll hear a lot of, "I never knew hams did that!" Our signals are invisible, but we don't have to be. **73, Ward NØAX**

## ARRL "Rookie Roundup"

This year the ARRL is working to engage newly licensed amateurs by creating a contest for them to get on the air and learn the basics of exchanging information, developing good practices, and get exposed to "contesting" as a way to develop their HF operator skills. Nick Winter K7MO is leading the charge for the Radio Club of Tacoma and will be holding court at the Radio Club of Tacoma Clubhouse on Saturday 10 and 17 April from around 10 am to Noon. Space constraints will only permit a maximum of 20, so Nick is establishing a sign up sheet.

Nick is not limiting these sessions to just "Newly Licensed" Hams, but wants any who have not begun the rewarding experience of operating on the HF Bands to come along and "get their feet wet"… The license is just the beginning of the learning process in amateur radio. Learn and enjoy all the challenges and fun that amateur radio can offer. Step up and twist a few knobs, learn to log, and in the end have more fun than lurking can ever provide.

It's great practice for the annual Field Day which comes up the last full weekend in June.

## From the ARRL:

The new ARRL Rookie Roundup contest is attracting the attention of clubs and new hams. While the new ARRL Web site is being completed, the Contest Branch Manager's usual ability to post information and answer questions is unavailable, unfortunately. In the meantime, Sean KX9X has created an off-site contest blog just for the Rookie Roundup. He will be adding material regularly to help get a newcomer started or to answer questions about the contest. It is quite possible that there will be modifications to the published procedures as we come up to speed, so please watch the blog for important updates about the contest.

## View from the Shack…

This is Sparky's first attempt at incorporating amateur radio articles of possible interest to Radio Club of Tacoma's membership. Feedback, while often ignored or causing mild amusement is welcomed…may even occasionally be used to improve the project**.**

***Sparky***

*"Why do you have to 'put your two cents in' but its only a 'penny for your thoughts'? Where's that extra penny going to?..."*

*The Disclaimer...*

*These articles are intended to browse through recent activities and events of possible interest to the Radio Club of Tacoma members. It will of course by design and intent be informal and attempt to distill some of the more interesting amateur radio articles and stories Sparky stumbles across.*

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**QI Industries announces the latest breakthrough in antenna technology, "ANTENNA SPECS".**

AD7QI Sez…

These are specially designed and constructed eyewear that actually allow you to see radio waves being emitted from an antenna. WOW, this takes antenna design and modeling to a new level. Just think being able to actually see the RF being emitted from your antenna. You will be able to look at the lobes size and shape, the take off angel, as well as the dips in signal strength. This revolutionary break threw takes all the guess work out of antenna building, to see what your antenna is really doing. To be able to see change in your design immediately, they work in real time. You will be able to see what effect antenna height as well as near by objects have on propagation then make the necessary changes. You will see for yourself the difference between a resonant antenna and one that is not.

There other uses for your "Antenna Specs" as well. For example; look for stray RF in your shack, or see how much brain damage you are getting from that hand held radio or cell phone. You can even see leaky coax or bad connectors.

There are 3 different frequency models, HF, VHF/UHF, and for EME MicroWave, as well color or B&W.

You just program in the frequency and sensitivity, you are ready to go. The color version lets you see phase shift and angle. This feature is very handy when building a Yagi.

You get a free bag of QI Antenna Fertilizer with an order of 2 or more……

# IT came… From out of the attic?

FROM: Al. N7OMS

I'm not sure that I should tell this story…

They didn't tell us not to speak about what we know. But they don't know all that I heard. They you may ask? That's part of the story.

It was late November and a group of Radio Club members had gotten together to do a work project at the Radio Club of Tacoma's club house. We were there to install new lighting in the museum and library rooms. It is a good group and we have worked together before. I knew that Rich and I would be spending several hours in the upstairs attic space. Not the most pleasant place but I was hoping that it would all be worth it.

We had gotten the Can lights installed in the museum without too much trouble and had gotten all the holes cut in the ceiling in the Library space. The group below was wiring the light cans in a string and Rich and I were preparing the attic space to receive them. This meant using some of the existing wiring and pulling it free of the staples they had used to tack it the rafters. I was pulling out an extra stubborn staple when it happened. In the glare of my head lamp I saw a flash. I kind of tapped around the area where I had seen the flash and heard metal hitting metal. Better see what's up I thought, may be trouble. Putting down my wonder bar, I reached into the loose insulation and felt around. Sure enough I felt a metal watch band but hooked on something. I tugged and all at once it came loose. The lighting was not the best and it took me several moments to realize that I was holding a watch but with what looked like bone still inside the watch band. Rich later said I had started making squeaking sounds and he looked around to see what was up. His shout broke the spell that had fallen over me and I dropped the watch with its bone and crawled to the ceiling access in a race with Rich to get out of there.

Bruce and Chuck both said they heard some noises that caused them to look up just as both Rich and my feet started coming out of the access. Even today they can't figure how we both got out of that small opening at the same time. I had to tell Bruce and Chuck my story of the bone and watch several times before I could make them understand. Guess I was still shook up. Rich had gone very quiet. It was Chuck that finally called the police. An officer showed up in about ten minutes and began to question all of us. He was just finishing up Bruce's statement when he got a call on his hand held radio. After a couple of words he left the room. Still feeling sort of unreal it came as a further shock when he came back and said that none of us could leave. Someone was coming to take over from him and we four were to stay. Bruce asked for how long. The officer frowned and said until we weren't needed any longer.

After about 20 minutes of waiting in the museum with the officer not saying much I asked to use the bathroom downstairs. I didn't really need to go just needed some moments to myself. Going downstairs I went into the classroom and just sat in the dark. Hearing a car pull up I went to the front window in the classroom and saw two people get out of a black van. One of them stopped to light a cigarette and I could see that he was with a woman. She asked the other what the address was. He told her and she said that they matched.

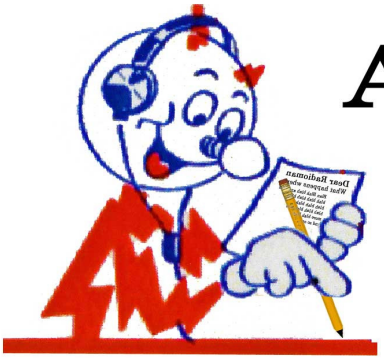
Matched what I thought?

He asked her if this could be the link they were looking for. She shrugged and said that Hans had been a member of the Radio Club at the time of his disappearance. That's when the man said something that really got me curious. He asked her if this location could have been used to test out the weapon. She thought for a moment and said that if the Club did have CW gear that yes it could have been used. That Gruber was clever that way hiding in plain sight. He ground out his cigarette and they started for the door. I ran to get upstairs before them and told the cop that someone was at the front door.

After that we each told our story to the hawk face women while the man was heard moving around the attic space. She didn't seem very friendly and refused to respond to the chatter that Bruce was using to try to get details of whom and what they were. After a few minutes she turned a very cold look at him that closed him down. They told us to go home about midnight.

The next Sunday the group met to finish up our project. We looked all over the attic space but could not see any signs of the bones or the watch. It only took a short time to finish and it was during cleanup that I told the rest what I had overhead last Sunday. When I mentioned the name Hans Gruber Chuck looked up sharply. I've heard of him Chuck said. He was a member in the sixties. As a matter of fact there is an article in the old Barks that I was just reading. Let's see if I can find it. After just a couple of try's Chuck began reading to us. It seems that in early 1964 Han's joined the club after emigrating from Demark. He was very active at the CW station during the 65 field day event. Over the next few weeks I asked some of the other members if they remembered Hans. He must have made an impression because I got several stories. Bob told me that Hans may have been the best CW operator he had ever heard. Listening to Hans he said was music. That after listening to him he felt a deep sense of peace. In early 1966 Hans had given a report to the members during a monthly meeting. Details were lacking but Han's believed that an encoded message could be sent over the airwaves that could cause human DNA to change. It was just a matter of getting the victims to listen to the coded string. Changed into what he didn't say. Shortly after that Hans Gruber was not seen at the Club anymore.

I suppose we will never know full story of Hans. Was that Hans in the attic? And just who where hawk face and smoker? Members of some secret government agency? What was Hans working on: weaponized CW? All I know is that when I hear a really good fist sending CW it gives me a little chill and I shut the rig off.



# Ask Radioman

**Answers to your questions pertaining to Amateur Radio and Amateur Radio operation**

**Send your questions to: radioman@w7dk.org**

Dear Radioman,

I have been a ham for about two months. The other day I was listening to the local radio club's repeater. I heard a repeater user, who obviously just arrived at his house. He told the ham he was talking to, "I just arrived at my **HOME 20**", so see you later". My question to you, Radioman, isn't this CB lingo? And isn't CB lingo frowned upon by amateur radio operators? What do you have to profess about this?

Name and Call Sign withheld by request of Julie, KG1JCS.

Dear Julie,

Yes, it is true that ham ops don't like to hear CB talk on any amateur frequency. The dislike is part of the tradition of ham radio that dates back to 1958 when the Federal Communications Commission created the Class D Citizen's Band radio service that uses frequencies from 26 to 28 MHz.

Back in those "ole days" the 10 meter ham band was made up of some of that 27 MHz that the FCC used to create the Citizen's Band. Perhaps you have noticed old HF transceivers that have 27 MHz as one of the 10 meter band selections.

When the hams who had to work hard to get a General class license lost some bandwidth to the CBers who simply had to sign on the dotted line and pay a small fee to get a CB call sign, it's needless to say that those ham ops back then were irked.

When the Citizen's Band became a free-for-all kind of 23 channel (and later on 40 channel) chat room with all kinds of wacky lingo, the ham ops who are self policing of their bandwidth and privileges became even more disliking of the CB community.

We've all seen the Smokey and the Bandit movies, the TV show "Dukes of Hazard", and heard the song "Convoy". These entertainment venues popularized the use of CB lingo. I am sure that you have heard the terms: "Bear", "Fly in the Sky", "Gumball Machines", and, "Kojak with a Kodak" in the media over the last 20 years. Ask your parents if you are not that old, Julie. All of this popularization of what some hams call the "Children's Band" just makes the CB lingo less desirable than ever to hear on the ham bands.

So, Julie– that's the history. But due to what is happening to ham radio as of late is creating some more friction between the THEMS and US's. The THEMS are the "new hams" who obtained their ham licenses through a one or two day seminar that teaches to the test, and with the test directly following. How could anyone fail to get a license. But, the THEMS are "new hams" who do not have any sense of the tradition of amateur radio.

The US's are the hams who think and believe that the tradition of amateur radio should be upheld and handed down from generation to generation or old Elmer to new ham op. This information and culture used to be handed down in ham radio classes that took 9 or 10 weeks plus learning the Morse code took more

**Continued on page 11**

**Radioman Continued...**

and more weeks. During those long times of learning together– bonds were formed, friends were made, and the culture was passed on. Now most of this is gone because almost anyone can easily get a ham license in a weekend.

Personally, Radioman does not think that there is any chance of going back to the old way of "passing the torch of knowledge" because now-a-days everyone wants everything to happen so fast. So, Radioman says, "If you can't beat 'em, then join 'em". So, Julie, with all of this said– Radioman proposes some ways of integrating the old ham radio culture with the ham radio of the future which is predicted to be very much what the Citizen's Band evolved into. To begin with Radioman proposes some new short cut codes.

Julie, perhaps one of the older hams that you know has mentioned the "Q" signals. They are (now/ were) shortcut codes that began with the letter Q. They were used by Morse code operators to handle traffic. These evolved in ham radio with many CW operators. As time went by, some of the Q signals were adopted by hams who used AM and/or SSB voice communication. A short time later, the Q signals became useful on FM, like two meter and 70 cm repeaters.

You may have heard these Q signals: QSL means ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT and has been adopted to mean YES, QTH means LOCATION, QSY means to CHANGE FREQUENCY.

Also, I am sure that you have heard some of the Citizen's Band "10" codes in the movies and TV shows I mentioned above. For example: 10-4 means YES, or OK; or 10-20 means LOCATION or DESTINATION; and 10-41 means CHANGE TO CHANNEL__.

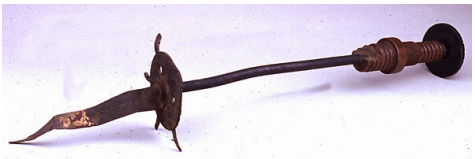
Both CB and ham codes were dual purpose. The code could make a statement or ask a question by how the users voice sounded. An example is: **QSL** means, "I understand". However, **10-4?** Means, "Do you understand the information I just gave you"?

Radioman proposes these radio codes for the new wave of amateur radio.

| New, proposed, 10Q Signals | |
|---|---|
| Q1<br>Q1? | I cant hear you very well. OR Can you hear me very well? |
| Q4<br>Q4 | Message received. OR Did you receive that? |
| Q6<br>Q6? | I am busy, please stand by. OR Are you busy now.<br>Also, The frequency is busy now. OR Is the frequency busy now? |
| Q11<br>Q11? | You are talking too fast. OR Am I talking too fast? (Note: has nothing to do with Radio Shack) |
| Q20<br>Q20? | My location or destination is ___. OR What is your location? Home20. |
| Q27<br>Q27? | I am moving to another frequency. OR Should we move to another frequency? |
| Q83<br>Q83? | I am joking with you. Laughter.<br>Is this an April Fool's joke? |
| Q28? | Is there another station calling me? |
| Q32<br>Q32? | I need a radio check. OR<br>Are you checking your radio? |
| Q3<br>Q3? | I am finished transmitting to you.<br>Are you finished transmitting to me? |
| Q Breaker!<br>Q Breaker? | I want to break into your conversation.<br>Is there a breaker? |
| Q77 | Negative Contact. |

Illegal CW operators can also use the Q10 codes. Sometimes 'cut' numbers can be used to save time. i.e. Q10 could be sent as QAT, or Q11 could be sent as QAA, and so on.

Thanks for the great question, Julie. Radioman hopes that using these new codes will meld the new wave of ham radio operators with the old way of doing business on the amateur air waves. A big welcome, new Amateur Radio Operators. Q83? Q83 Q3 Q4?



**Rettysnitch, a primitive screwdriver antenna.**

## *Sparky's* "View from the Shack"

### *This and that around the club, and more…*

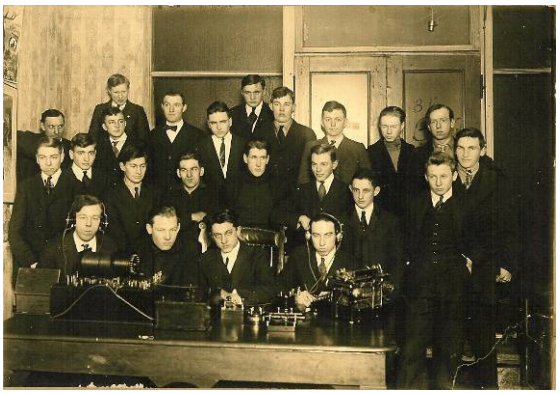
***Sparky's*** *welcomes comments, ideas and letters to "The RCT View", but reserves the right to procrastinate, and generally ignore social engineering or cranky inputs. Editorial philosophy — While there occasionally may be reason and rhyme as we go along, the goal is to ramble through the many and varied activities of the Club and its members as we take another trip around the sun.*

## Our Legacy


- *Our Legacy…*
- *Mystery photo*
- *The Pony Express Analogy*
- *Attaboys*
- *View from the Shack*

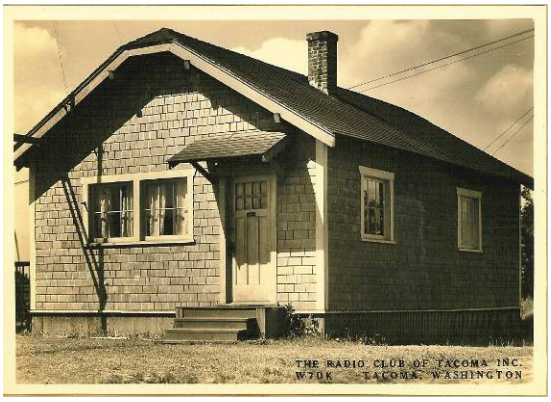

I began wondering what the world was like back in 1916 when a handful of mostly High School students banded together and established "The Radio Club of Tacoma".

Poking around the internet, I discovered that the World War I Battles of Verdun and the Somme were being fought in France, General Pershing failed in his raid into Mexico to capture rebel Poncho Villa, and the British put down the Easter Rebellion in Ireland. Montana voters elected Jeannette Rankin, the first woman to serve in the US Congress, and the Congress created the US National Park Service. Margaret Sanger opened the first birth control clinic in the country in Brooklyn NY. The unemployment rate was 5.1% and a first class stamp cost .02 cents. Albert Einstein completed his mathematical formulation of a general theory of relativity, which includes gravity. Dunno about you, but that sure puts things in perspective for me. Here's a photo of the first members of the club.



## Mystery Photo

This building has some Radio Club of Tacoma History. Wonder how many know what that relationship was… (By the way, it is still around, on Oakes Street in Tacoma)



## The Pony Express Analogy

With permission from the ARRL/ ARES-E Letter 24Feb2010

**Op-Ed: New Modes**

The Pony Express is perhaps one of the most iconic Old West symbols of American ingenuity, initiative and enterprise. Many of us grew up reading stories or watching television shows about the heroic adventures of the fearless Pony Express rider who grabbed a saddlebag of mail, flung it over his horse and then tore out of town. With a fresh horse every ten miles or so and a new rider every hundred, the nearly two thousand mile route could be covered in ten days instead of thirty by an overland stage.

Their motto was "The Mail Must Go Through" and they played a vital role in how the West was won. As a kid it was easy to imagine that the Pony Express pursued its mission for years, if not decades, as the vital communications link to the frontier and all the way to Sacramento, California.

But such was not the case. In reality it was a short-lived money losing venture. Although they delivered over 34,000 pieces of mail and only lost one delivery, the completion of the transcontinental telegraph immediately spelled the end of the Pony Express. Instead of a ten day ride, messages could be routed across the country by wire. Delivery time could now be measured in minutes.

Nineteen months after it started the Pony Express rode off into the sunset of obsolescence, replaced by a technology that was faster and could handle a much greater volume of messages.

What's the lesson in this for the Amateur Radio EmComm community? Well, if you have a horse and saddle you can still climb aboard and ride to the next county or wherever to deliver a message. If the message's destination is farther than you can ride, how many relays will it take for the message to be delivered? How reliable will each leg be along the entire route? By the time the message reaches the recipient will it already be outdated? Sure, the means of delivery may still work but does it meet the true needs of those who are relying on it or simply keeping you and your pony in shape?

The point is that even tried and true methods of wireless communication that have near iconic status may not have either the relevance or utility that potential consumers may require. Yes, it may be the manner and mode of communication that the operators are accustomed to, but will it meet the actual need?

This is not meant to be a particular criticism of any particular national system

because it can apply just as well to local operations, too. Do the people and agencies that we serve need a capacity for more lengthy and detailed messages? Rapid delivery to multiple recipients? Message attachments? Images as well as text? Inter-modal movement of messages? Some may disparage services such as Twitter, but is a twenty-five word limit for a Radiogram all that different from the 140 character limit for a tweet?

It seems that every few months we are reading about some new digital mode for Amateur Radio, many of them sound card-based freeware. Sure it is difficult to keep up with all of them and none has become a standard, but it is easy to begin sampling them and seeing what works.

We all have an obligation to expand our communication horizons by acquiring new skills and exploring new modes and technologies that we can interface with traditional modes. Otherwise we run the risk of standing around holding the reins on our pony waiting for someone to ask us to help. -- Jim Aylward, KC8PD/AAM5EOH, EC, ARES of Portage County; Radio Officer, Portage County EMA/RACES Emergency Operations Officer, Ohio Army MARS.

## Attaboys:

This month's Attaboys go to the venerable Volunteer Examiner Team headed up by John Clarke. They can be counted on like clockwork the second Tuesday of every month to help make newly minted members of the Amateur Radio Service. Because of their consistency, candidates frequently come from long distances to test for their licenses.

Of course the VE's wouldn't have as much to do if it weren't for the educators… Steve Morton AD7AB and his team turn out Technicians all year long, and recently Steve Blacksten AD7VL has completed a General Class course which produced over 13 new General Class licensees.

These efforts contributed to the Radio Club of Tacoma winning the Western Washington ARRL Divisions Challenge 500 contest established by Jim Pace K7CEX. Jim's Challenge resulted in 640 new licensees in the Western Washington Division; the Radio Club of Tacoma's contribution to that total was 193. The award will be received by John Clarke AC7WW a this year's Communications

Academy the weekend of April 10/11.

Sparky would be remiss if he didn't note the work of the newly resurrected "Repeater Committee" who have, at long last, succeeded in moving the club's 147.28 repeater downstairs into its planned home. Moreover, they are now working on upgrading the repeater donated to us by Shirley and Tom Murphy to improve its operation and coverage.

## View from the Shack…

Recently Frank Palmer AC7JY's Property Management Procedures committee; Bruce Hanson W7EP, Gary McAdams WG7X, Bob Heselberg K7MXE, Harry Adams W7HSA, Jack Hegseth K7DBU and Larry Watson KD4VOM submitted to the Board their recommendations for getting our club property under control.

Their recommended Operating Procedures were approved and the Property Management Team was appointed. At this writing, they have already engaged and are in the process of preparing recommendations for turning our rather large selection of tubes into club income. The property inventory process is again underway and there is hope for the future, together with reclaiming much needed storage space.

***Sparky***

*"How is it we put a man on the moon before we figured out it would be a good idea to put wheels on luggage?..."*

*The Disclaimer...*
*These articles are intended to browse through recent activities and coming events of possible interest to the Radio Club of Tacoma members. It will of course by design and intent be informal and attempt to record some of the Club's activities that might otherwise go unnoticed.*

**SOMETHING RENEWED**

**I would like to bring to the attention of the membership there has been a reformation of an *all new* Property Management Team. The new team members have been carefully chosen for their abilities and appointed by the President.**

**The Property Management Team will with the approval of the Board of Directors, manage the whereabouts of equipment within the club, keep a running inventory of all that we have whether it's what we are using, donations, or what may be in the process of disposition.**

**There may be times when we ask for your help with things such as inventory, testing, cleaning, transportation and more.**

**You'll find a list of the team members and their contact information posted inside the front and back doors of the clubhouse.**

**It is important to all of us that you know who we are. Here is somewhat of an introduction to the Property Management Team:**

The RCT has many members with a variety of talents. If we were to enroll all of them who had talents desirable of the PMT it would be an extremely large group. We know that many club members want to help out and be involved with club functions. There is nothing stopping them from doing that!

Bob K7MXE – chosen for his many years of hands on experience with equipment, especially what glows in the dark. He knows prices well too. Excellent for triage and inventory work. Bob is available almost any day of the week and is willing to help often.

Jack K7DBU – chosen for his many years of experience with equipment. He knows prices well. Jack is an expert on testing equipment. Excellent for triage and inventory. Jack is available almost any day of the week and is willing to help often.

Larry KD4VOM – chosen for his knowledge of procedures. There is not much he can't do when you put him in front of a computer. The inventory database is a monster and Larry does a great job helping to keep it tame. If information is needed, he'll find it. Excellent for triage and inventory. Larry is available often and does not hesitate to volunteer.

Gary WG7X – chosen for his vast knowledge of equipment, new and old. As one of our Station Managers, he not only knows of equipment but, he is an expert in using it too. Gary is well experienced from the mic to the tip of the antenna. Excellent for triage and inventory.

Harry W7HSA – chosen for his dedication to his home away from home – the clubhouse. Harry lives reasonably close by and attends almost every event. He is quite active on the airways and has many connections. Harry knows how to use equipment. He's well versed and an excellent choice for inventory help. Just ask and he'll be there.

Rich KR7W – chosen for his vast knowledge of equipment both old and new. Rich knows what makes things tic. Equipment that glows in the dark is one of his favorite activities. He knows antenna construction well. Rich is our eBay expert. He knows prices and he is an excellent choice for triage and inventory. Living only minutes from the clubhouse, Rich makes himself available often.

Bruce WE7P – chosen for "how to do it" ability and amazing knowledge. Remember the typical "fix it" man on TV? That's Bruce. He is an expert at testing equipment. He knows prices and is an excellent choice for triage and inventory. Bruce lives close by and is available almost any day of the week.

Al N7OMS – chosen for his many years experience with property management. Al is the backbone of the inventory system. He is an excellent research man. Al can dive right into what we are doing. He's an excellent choice for triage and inventory. He has the "drive" to get it done. Al lives just a short distance from the clubhouse so he is easy to get a hold of.

Frank AC7JY – chosen for my ability to organize and lead (so I'm told) among an overall good experience in property management. I've used eBay quite a bit and have been involved with Hamfests for many years. I know the ins and outs of equipment (not especially what glows in the dark) and the values of it. I consider myself an excellent choice for triage and inventory. I am available almost any day of the week. Most of all, I have the will and the drive to handle this job and watch it make a good change for the club.

"We're here to serve the club"

73,

Frank Palmer AC7JY

## VE REPORT John AC7WW

Tuesday, March 9th ten candidates gathered at the clubhouse of the Radio Club of Tacoma. Twelve volunteer examiners graded 15 elements. Six exam elements two were passed, four elements three were passed with two being failed, and one element four were passed with two failures. One candidate passed both element two and three.

Six new Technicians and one new General joined the Amateur Service. Three candidates upgraded to General and one candidate upgraded to Amateur Extra.

Thanks to the following VE's for their time and effort.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Harry, W7HSA | Linda, AB7YL | Joe, W7RQ |
| Steve, AD7VL | Al, AC7BU | Jon, AD7AW |
| Rich, KK7VH | Jim, N7RHX | Stephen, AD7AB |
| Mike, AD7TH | Bill, AD7QI | |

We will have a special testing session at the Firs Mobile Home Park Sunday March 14th.
The next scheduled testing session will be Tuesday, April 13th, 2010.

---

**VE REPORT John AC7WW**

Sunday, March 14 twelve candidates were gathered at the Twin Firs Mobile Home Park clubhouse in Spanaway. Five Volunteer Examiners graded twenty-one exams. Nine candidates passed element three to advance to General. Three candidates failed to upgrade.

Thanks to the following VE's for their time and effort.

| | |
|---|---|
| Jill, K7JIL, | Frank, AC7JY |
| Bob, AD7LJ | Steve, AD7VL |

The next scheduled testing session will be Tuesday, April 13th, 2010.

Addendum by Steve AD7VL:

The results of my first general class on March 13th and 14th 2010 was: Of 14 students, two never attended class, they got their upgrade by self-study.

Way to go ERIC and LUCY!

The remaining 12 students attended both days of class and 9 new General upgrades were made.

That makes ELEVEN out of fourteen students achieved their upgrade.

Special thanks to Dale Morrison AD7SQ for his help, and Butch Brickey KE7JBG for making the facility available.

Thanks to all participants. Steve AD7VL

# The Radio Club of Tacoma's Logger's Bark

*The Logger's Bark* is the *OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE RADIO CLUB OF TACOMA*... and is published by W7DK Press, PO Box 11188, Tacoma, WA 98411. The Radio Club of Tacoma is a non-profit corporation as defined by law, and all proceeds will be used exclusively for charitable and educational purposes. The Radio Club of Tacoma's Club House is located at 1249 Washington St, Tacoma, WA 98411, phone: 253-759-2040.

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**Secretary:** Ken Gibson, N7ELF 253-759-6919 n7elf@junett.com
**Treasurer:** Joe Lester 73radio@gmail.com

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Al Lentz, W7AML alentz@centurytel.net
Harry Adams W7HSA RCT@xemapsl.com
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Gary McAdams,WG7X wg7x@arrl.net
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**ADVERTISE in the BARK:** $60.00 full page, $30.00 half page, $15.00 quarter page, $5.00 business card size. These charges offset the publishing and USPS mailing costs.
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**Membership Info:** FULL (licensed) and ASSOCIATE (non licensed) is $30 per calendar year. $25 for Licensed Seniors (65 and over). Licensed family members at same address pay $15 each for the first two and are free for the third, fourth, and so on. Fulltime students, licensed or non licensed, up to age 25 are $15 per year. Note: fees are applicable for the calendar year: Jan to Dec. Lifetime membership is 20 times the yearly fee you are eligible for.. Lifetime memberships are calculated based on the FULL and ASSOCIATE rates.

## Radio Club Repeaters

*Central Tacoma: 147.280 + PL=103.5 Central Tacoma Packet: 144.970*
*Crawford Mountain (SE Thurston County): 147.380 + PL=103.5*
*Central Tacoma: 440.625 + PL=103.5*

***The Loggers Bark***
**Radio Club of Tacoma, INC.**
**PO Box 11188**
**Tacoma, WA 98411**

**To RCT Member:**

# APRIL 2010 EVENTS

**CLUB MEETINGS**: Wednesdays April 14th and 28th at the Library Administration Building 112th and Waller Road. The club meets at 7:30 PM. Everyone is invited to attend.

**Board Meeting:** Wednesday April 7th 7:00 PM at the RCT clubhouse. All members are welcome to attend .

**Bark Deadline**: Last week-end of each month. Please submit articles by that time!

**Support our club**: Attend meetings, volunteer, Elmer!

**Check into the weekly two meter net:** Tuesdays at 7:30 PM on the club repeater on 147.280 MHz.

**Check into the weekly 10 meter net:** Sundays at 8:00 PM on 28.375 MHz.